



X-37 Flight Demonstrator

Approach & Landing Test Vehicle Flight Test Approach



Terry Taylor
X-37 Project
NASA Marshall Space Flight Center
February 11, 2004

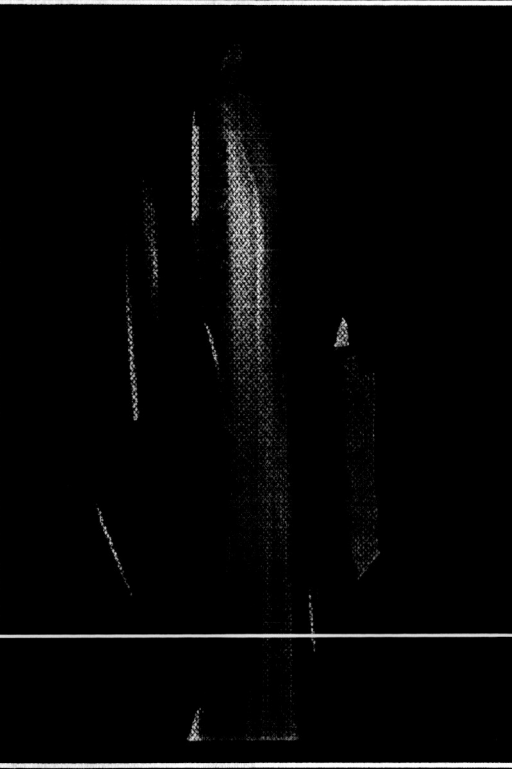
Phased Approach to Orbital Flight Demonstrations

X-40A Completed Seven
Successful Flights in 2001

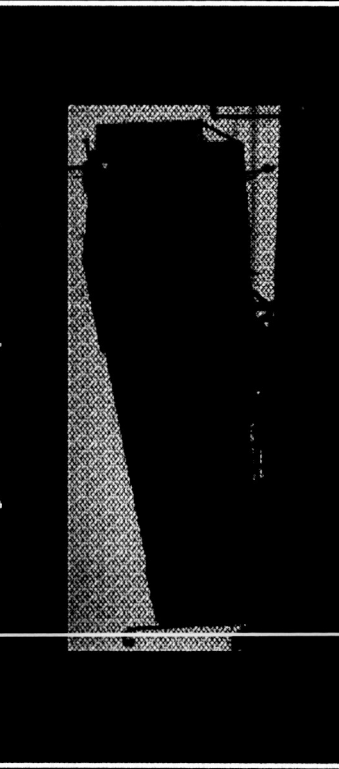


Drop Tests

Approach and Landing
Test Vehicle Flies 2004

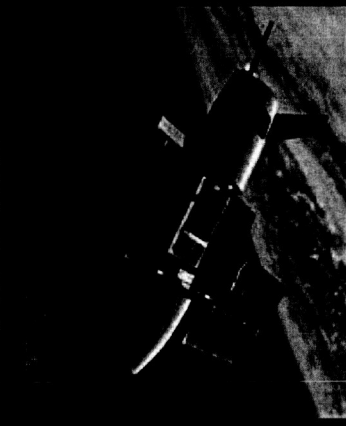


B-52 will carry ALTV up to 40,000 feet

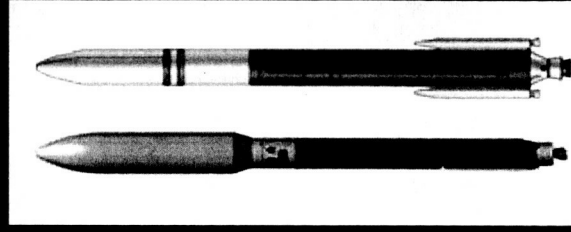


Streamlined Ground Operations

Orbital Vehicle
Flies TBD



On Orbit



EELV

Partners

Ames Research Center

Dryden Flight Research Center

Flight Test Center (Edwards AFB)

30th Space Wing (Vandenberg AFB)

● Boeing Palmdale

● Boeing Huntington Beach

AFRL (Wright/Patterson AFB)

NASA HQ / Goddard Space Flight Center

Langley Research Center

AFRL/DET SMC (Kirtland AFB)

Glenn Research Center

Marshall Space Flight Center

● Boeing Huntsville

Johnson Space Center

NASA Partners

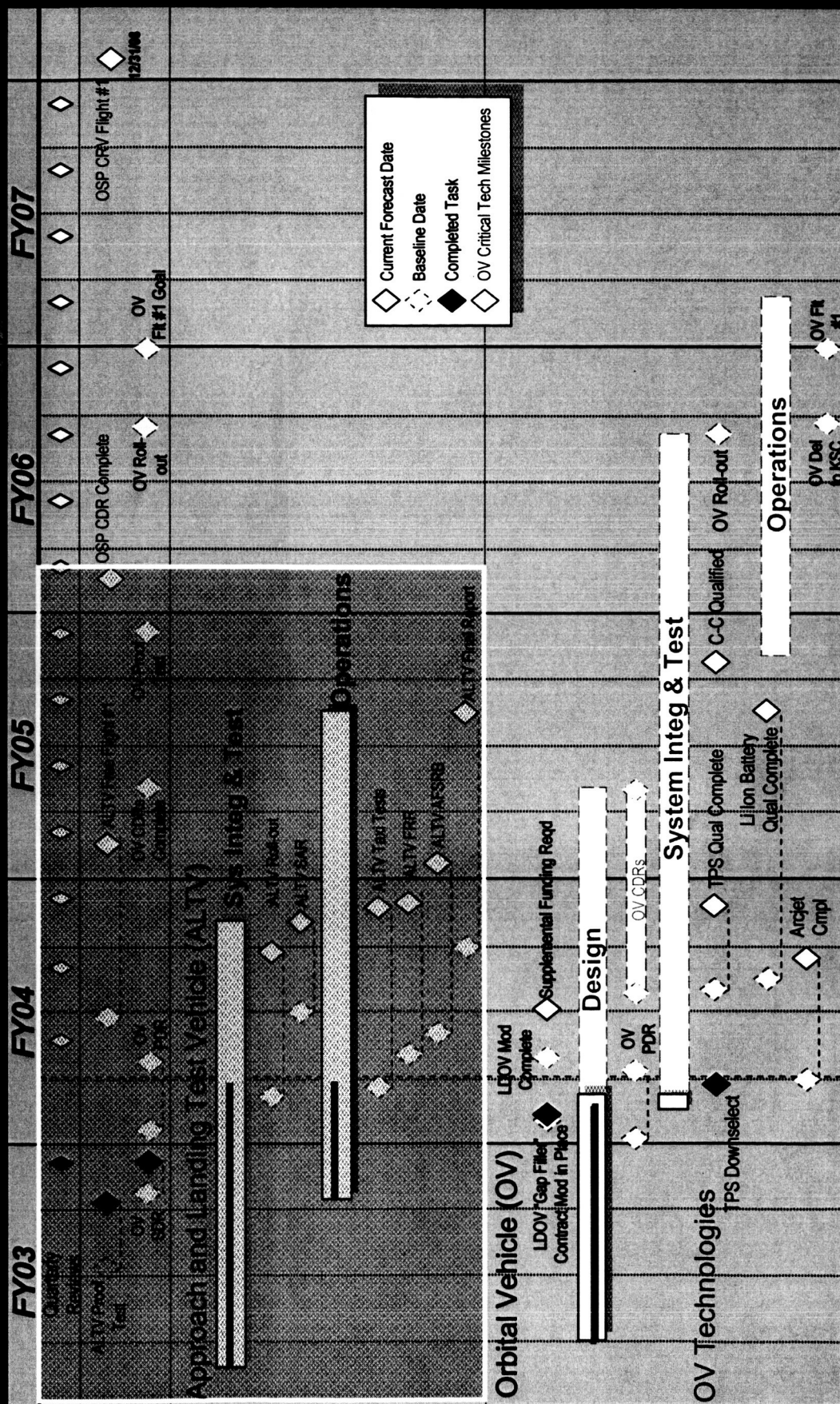
● Boeing Partners

● U.S. Air Force Partners

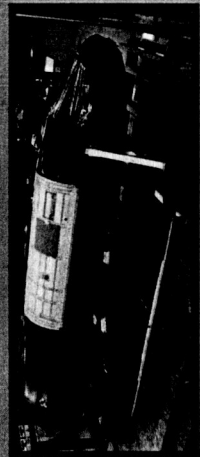
Kennedy Space Center

45th Space Wing (Patrick AFB)

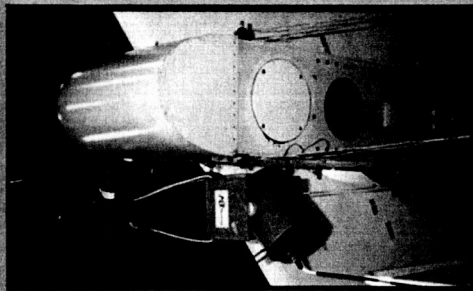
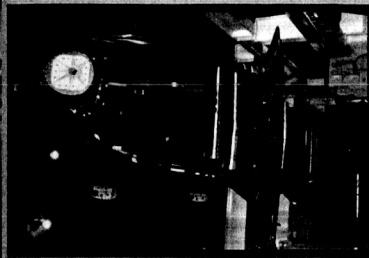
X-37 Summary Schedule



Vehicle Testing, Integration & Assembly in Progress



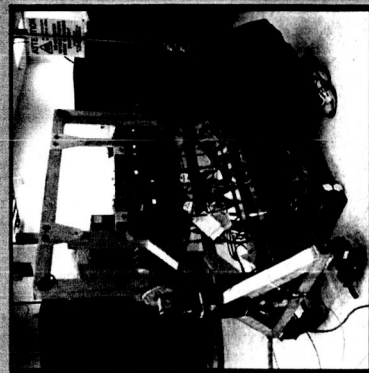
ALT V Assembly & Proof Testing



**B-52 Pylon
Ground Vibration Test**

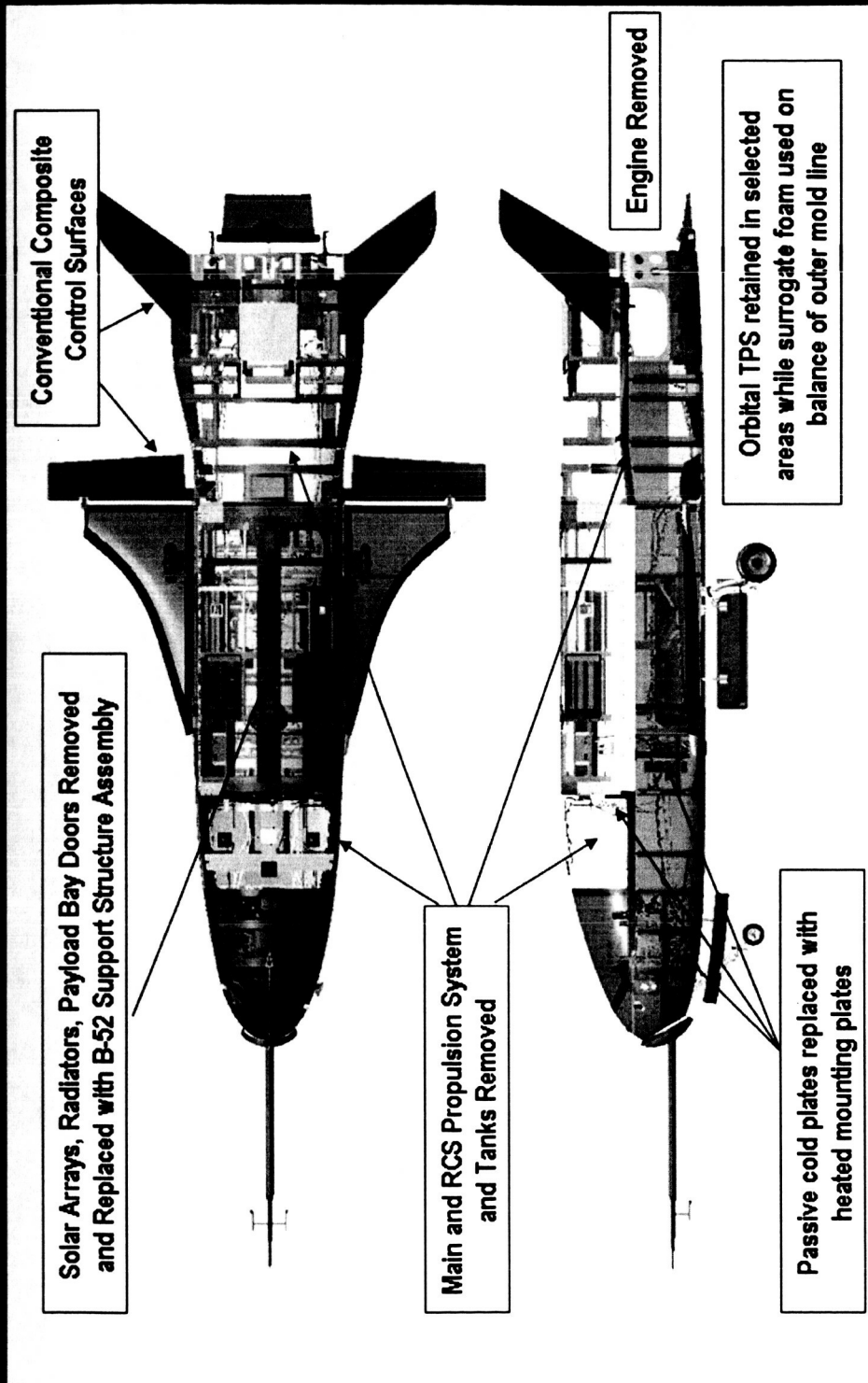


Ruddervator In Test Fixture



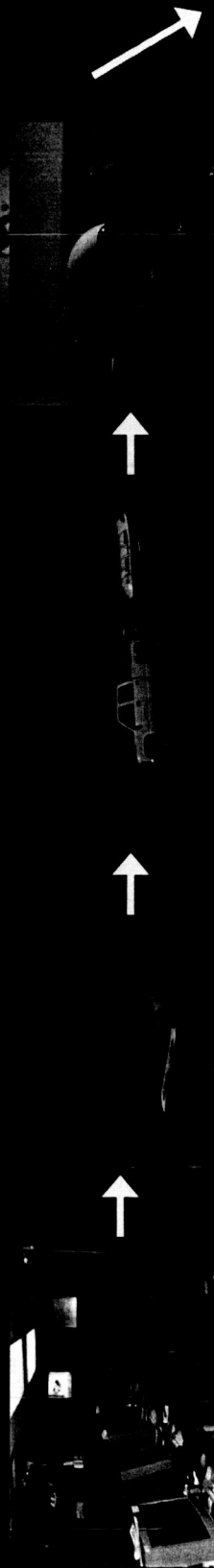
**Navigation Pallet
Wirebird Testing**

ALTV Expanded View



ALT Flight Test Philosophy Uses X-40A Proven Stepping Stone Approach

Main Objective: *Autonomous Approach & Landing*



FOCC Setup & Checkout

- FOCC system C/O
- Verify range interfaces

Ground Tests

- Verify uplink & downlink
- Evaluate Nav system performance
- Radar altimeter performance
- System checkout
- FTS system checkout

Captive Tow Taxi

- Incremental speed buildup
- Verify GN&C performance
- Systems checkout



Free Taxi

- Incremental speed buildup
- Verify closed-loop GN&C
- Verify autonomous ops
- Verify landing system models
- System evaluation



Free Flight

- Autonomous approach/landing
- Verify flight control algorithms
- Verify CADS performance
- Expand crosswind envelope
- Aerodynamic PID maneuvers

B-52 Integration

- Pylon fit check
- Drogue Chute Integration
- Mated GVT
- Combined Systems Test
- High-speed taxi
- Verify loads and environments

Captive Flight

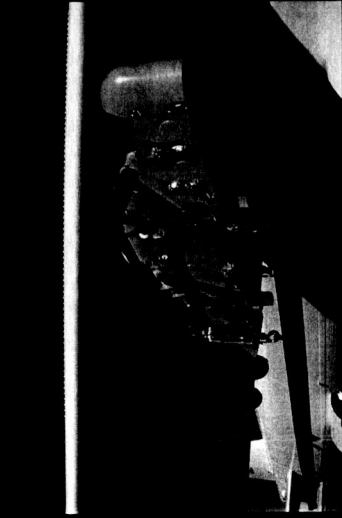
- Incremental buildup to release conditions
- Verify navigation thru release box
- Verify system performance
- Verify loads and environments
- Ops rehearsal for free flight

Hangar Tests

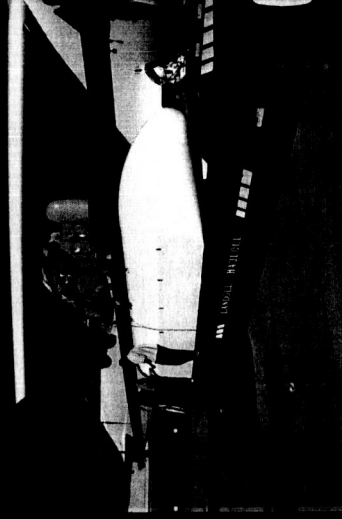
- Functional testing
- Calibrations
- Vehicle-in-Loop simulations
- Software & MDL validation

(Continuing hangar tests and maintenance)

B-52/Pylon/Drogue Chute Subsystem Integration



B-52 Pylon Assembly Installed



X-37 Simulator Used for Drogue Chute
Integration Tests on B-52H Bomber



ALTV Drogue Chute Testing at NWS China
Lake HIVAS Facility – Summer 2003

ALTV Free-Flight Profile



Summary

- Boeing / NASA team working toward Approach and Landing Test Vehicle flight tests in late 2004
- ALTV Reduces Risk to the X-37 Orbital Vehicle (OV) Flight Program by:
 - Testing a subset of OV technologies in a critical portion of the flight envelope
 - Validating the Calculated Air Data System (CADS) performance / Subsonic Aerodynamic Database
 - Demonstrating OV Approach & Landing Trajectory
 - Expanding the operational flight envelope of the OV – enabling more landing opportunities for orbital missions

For More Information

